

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-005

Acreage: 149.5

Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Description

The unit of BLM land identified as CO-060-005 is adjacent to the Uncompahgre Wilderness, meeting the size requirement criteria. The western border is comprised of the Uncompahgre Wilderness; the northern border is the American Flats Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Private land and patented mining claims form the eastern and southern border. This parcel was excluded from the American Flats WSA and Uncompahgre Wilderness due to "unnaturalness" during previous LWC inventory conducted by the Montrose BLM in 1979.

(1) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

Alpine tundra dominates CO-060-005 with nearly the entire parcel at and above 12,000 ft. Grasses and wild flowers are the main vegetation with steep rocky features throughout the parcel. The main human use is access to the private land/patented mining claims that make up the eastern and southern border.

(2) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

With enough distance from the Alpine Loop (3303) and private land/mining claims separating public access to the parcel from the south, CO-060-005 has outstanding opportunities for solitude.

Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel provides opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation such as hiking, backpacking and wildlife viewing, as well as access to the adjacent Uncompahgre Wilderness and the American Flats WSA. An estimated ± 400 visitors annually travel the hiking trails that pass through this unit.

(3) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value)?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel provides outstanding view of the surrounding San Juan Mountains and contains a low level of lynx habitat.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-005

Result of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Check one

X The area, or portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

 The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

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Date: 7/24/13

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.